

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
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AMEMBASSY ATHENS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 01072

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EEC, CY, ETRD
SUBJ: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL, JANUARY 17, 1978:
CYPRUS

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 266 (B) BRUSSELS 267 (C) BRUSSELS 526

1. IN JANUARY 17 EC COUNCIL MEETING, FOREIGN MINISTERS,
WITHOUT ACTUALLY CHANGING COMMUNITY NEGOTIATING MANDATE
APPROVED DECEMBER 21, NONETHELESS GAVE THE EC COMMISSION
NEW FLEXIBILITY FOR RESUMING NEGOTIATIONS WITH CYPRUS ON
AGRICULTURAL TRADE ARRANGEMENTS. AS WE UNDERSTAND IT
FROM DANISH PERMREP AND CYPRIOT MISSION TO THE EC, THE
COUNCIL INSTRUCTED THE COMMISSION TO RESUME TALKS WITH A
VIEW TO RECEIVING DETAILED CYPRIOT EXPLANATION OF WHEREIN
CYPRUS FINDS DECEMBER 21 COMMUNITY MANDATE UNACCEPTABLE,
AND COREPER TO EXAMINE POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE
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COMMUNITY OFFER. DANES AND CYPRIOTS TELL US COMMISSION
TALKS WITH CYPRUS WILL RESUME NEXT WEEK. COUNCIL PLANS
TO EXAMINE CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS AGAIN FEBRUARY 7.

2. ACCORDING TO HIS SPOKESMAN, EC COMMISSION VICE
PRESIDENT HAFERKAMP (EXTERNAL RELATIONS) OPENED COUNCIL
DISCUSSION BY URGING THAT THE MINISTERS CONSIDER FAVORABLY

THE CYPRIOT REQUEST FOR IMPROVED AGRICULTURAL OFFERS IN THE COMMISSION MANDATE. HAFERKAMP STRESSED TWO POINTS IN HIS REMARKS: (A) THE FACT THAT 87 PERCENT OF CYPRIOT EXPORTS TO THE COMMUNITY ARE AGRICULTURAL; AND (B) THE POSSIBLE ADVERSE IMPACT ON THE CYPRIOT POLITICAL SITUATION OF ANY ECONOMIC PROBLEMS STEMMING FROM FAILURE TO NEGOTIATE SATISFACTORY AGRICULTURAL TRADE ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE EC AND CYPRUS.

3. WE UNDERSTAND GERMANY, DENMARK, THE U.K., AND THE NETHERLANDS STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE COMMISSION'S POSITION, EMPHASIZING THE POLITICAL GROUNDS FOR A POSITIVE COMMUNITY APPROACH. ALTHOUGH FRANCE AND ITALY INSISTED THAT THE COMMISSION MANDATE COULD NOT BE MODIFIED UNLESS CYPRUS WERE TO SUBMIT SATISFACTORY OFFERS OR DATA OF ITS OWN, THEY DID AGREE TO A PROPOSAL THAT THE COMMISSION BE ALLOWED A GREATER DEGREE OF NEGOTIATING FLEXIBILITY, EVEN THOUGH THE MANDATE ITSELF REMAINS UNCHANGED FOR NOW.

4. CYPRIOT MISSION OFFICER TOLD US JANUARY 18 THAT CYPRIOT MINISTERS WHO WERE IN BRUSSELS FOR COUNCIL SESSION FOLLOWING THEIR VISITS TO OTHER EC CAPITALS (REF A) WERE PLEASED BY JANUARY 17 COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS BECAUSE: (A) WHILE IT IS BY NO MEANS CERTAIN THE COMMUNITY WILL IN THE END IMPROVE ITS OFFER, THERE IS NOW SUBSTANTIAL REASON TO HOPE THAT IT WILL; AND (B) THE "FRIENDLINESS FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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CYPRUS" MANIFESTED AT COUNCIL SESSION WILL HELP CYPRIOT GOVERNMENT TO COMBAT THOSE POLITICAL FORCES IN CYPRUS ARGUING THAT CYPRUS SHOULD ATTENUATE ITS TIES WITH AN "UNGENEROUS, HOSTILE" WESTERN EUROPE.

5. COMMISSION OFFICIAL NOTED TO MISSION FOLLOWING THE COUNCIL SESSION THAT "THINGS NEVER PROCEED EASILY" IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH CYPRUS AND THAT THERE MAY WELL BE FURTHER EXCURSIONS AND ALARUMS BEFORE THE AGRICULTURAL TALKS ARE CONCLUDED. HINTON

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